(196) To Tal. Pages-2 (1)

Message By

SWAMI CHIDANANDA

OF RISHIKESH (HIMALAYAS)

TO ALL KODAVA BRETHEREN OF COORG. MERCARA.

APRIL 1976

(CONVEYED THROUGH REVERED GEN. K. M. CARIAPPA)

Blessed Divinities!

Radiant Immortal souls in the form of my beloved Kodava fellow-citizens of our glorious and sacred Motherland Bharatavarsha, my loving Namaskars to one and all of you assemled here for your annual gathering.

It is a great joy and pleasure to this servant of Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj to send this message to one and all of you upon this very happy occasion. It would have given great pleasure to have been personally present amidst you all during this colourful and joyful gathering. But being unable to be present I speak to you through this message.

The greatest knowledge, wisdom and science is to know oneself. Knowldge of Self or Science of the self is Atma-Jnana or BrahmaVidya. This Divine science of your inner spritual reality will liberate you from all bondage, fear and sorrow. It will liberate you from the limitations and imperfections of the earth existence that have arisen due to spritiual ignorance of self-forgetfulness. Knowledge of Self will grant you Divine bliss, perennial peace and deathless existence. You will become established forever in a state of illumined Divine conciousness. This spiri titual science, this inner hidden wisdom of your Real Nature is the most precious and i comparable Gem and Jewel in the priceless cultural treasure of Bharatvarsha which you have inherited as a child of your sacred Motherland. This inner spiritual science is your birthright which you must claim and make your own. It proclaims the divinity of man. It emphaticlly declares "Thou Art Immortal Soul".

Radiant Immortal Atman! You are more than you know yourself to be. You are different from what you Think yourself to be. Thou art not merely human Thou Art indeed Divine! Thou art not this temporary perishable body. Thou art Immortal Spirit dwelling within this material body! Thou art not this impure and restless mind. Thou art everpure and supremely peacefilled Soulor Atma. Thou art not this finite intelect with limited powers of reasoning and knowing Thou art infinite and boundless Atma or Spirit Divine. Thou art certainly without birth and without death. Thou art eternal, timeless, imperishable and unchanging Atma. Thou art changeless and indestructible because Thou art spiritual Reality which is unchanging and immortal. This is thy Real Nature. Thau art neither man nor woman, neither young nor old, neither learned nor ignoratt but Thou art nameless, formless, sexless, bodyless, timeless, deathless, effulgent Atman Divine. Hold on to this Truth. Live in the light of this knowledge. This is the real life. This is the secret of conquering of vexations and distractions in life and attaining Divine Peace, joy and fearlessness in the midst of passing troubles, tribulations and confusions of earthly existence. Forgetfulness of your True Nature is real Death.

Human individual is a mysterious mixture of beast, man and God. Man is a mixture of three ingredients, namely, a gross animal nature, a rational Human nature, and a slumbering

spiritual nature or dormant divinity awaiting to be awakened and unfolded. Your mission in life is to conquer and eliminate the lower animal nature, to purify and uplift your Human nature and to unfold and manifest dynamically your real Divine Nature. Conquer and eradicate the animal tendency of lethargy, laziness, gluttony, sensuality, ferocity and violent destructive passions. Purify your Human nature by removing the impurities of selfishness, egoism, pride, arrogance, obstinacy, falsehood and greed. Uplift your nature through the force of sublime higher idealism and noble character and Dharmic Life. Awaken the latent Divinity by means of regular study of philosophical and spiritual text, company of holy saints, by worship of the Divine and through introspection and daily meditation. Unfold and manifest your awakened divinity through the practice of the Divine Life of Karma Yoga(selflessness and service of others),through Bhakti Yoga (devotion and worship of the Lord), through Raja Yoga (discipline of senses, control of mind, concentration and meditation) and through Jnana Yoga (philosophical enquiry, discrimination,reflection and deep contemplation). Let not your life be the mere manifestation of the sensual physical nature or the selfish desire-diven mental nature but let your life be the glorious manifestation of your Divine Nature through every thought, feeling, word and action of yours. Thus, transform your ordinary life into Divine life. You will become a blessing to contemporary society. You will become a centre of Truth, Purity, Universal Love. You will become the real wealth of your Nation. You will enrich the Human family itself. You will be a light in the darkness You must do this. Because you are a child of the Divine. Your real Nature (Atman) is part of the Universal Soul or God. Hence, all Divine virtue is inherent within your realself. Thou Art Immortal Soul.

Conquering your lower Nature eradicate its imperfections. Purifying your human Nature elevate and direct it towards the spiritual goal and ideal, awakening, unfolding, and developing your Divine Nature. Let it become manifest in your daily life. The above process constitutes Divine life. " For leading this Divine life, you need not retire into the Jungle Cave. You need not isolate yourself on the mountain top. You can lead the Divine life while remaining in the world. What is wanted is you must give up your egoism and vanity. You must renounce selfishness and blind attachment to things. You must cast away impure desires and sense cravings. Give your mind to God. Give your hands to the service of Humanity." (Swami Sivanand).

Serve Humanity, feeling the presence of the Divine Being. Serve your parents and elders. Serve your neighbours. Serve the poor, the sick and the neglected ones. Serve with Divine wisdom and spiritual feelings. Serve the Society and Country as a whole.Serve all Humanity and all living creatures.Serve selflessly without desiring any reward or recognition. Such selfless service is indeed Yoga. It is a noble pursuit. Such service is equal to the worship of God. Never forget this. This is the emphatic declaration of Gurudev Shri Swami Sivanandajee Maharaj. Thus Shri Gurudev further says — " Divine life will free you from all miseries, sufferings and sorrows. It will enable you to triumph over cares, worries and anxiety. It will give you inner spiritual strength, spiritual joy, fearlessness and freedom."

You must practise and develop this Divine life in and through your ordinary normal life in this World. Cultivate truth, purity and compassion whatever your occupation and profession may be. Worship God with devotion daily.Practise calm and serious meditation upon the Divine every day in the silent hours of the early morning and evening. Do this without fail regularly. You will obtain rare inner experience. Purify your intellect by spiritual study. Sharpen your intellect through philosophical reflection. Enquire into the real Nature of this outer world of ever changing appearances. Recognise that everything outside you is only a passing show. Temporary, changeful and impermanent is this world outside. Perishable and subject to decay and destruction are all things in this outside World you behold. Nothing is permanent. Therefore while anything may have a passing utility, nothing has true and lasting, ultimate worth or value. Temporary things cannot give you permanent happiness.Changeful things cannot be relied upon to give you any uniform experience. Thus, reason and reflect well. Let your intellect become your friend and help to save you from folly and sorrow. Aspire to know and realise the Reality hidden behind appearences. This is your foremost duty. In thislies your highest welfare. Serve. Worship. Meditate. Realise Reality. This is Divine life.

Beloved Immortal Self ! Let all your life be a radiation of virtue. Live a life of simplicity, humility and nobility. Develop purity in thought, word and deed Purity is the golden key to the Realm of blessedness. Purity is the greatest austerity or Tapasya. Purity is the highest Yoga.

Wherever you are, always remember God. Set apart some fixed time daily for prayer, worship and silent meditation. Mentally repeat the Divine Name of God constantly. You will become illumined. Feel the presence of God always and everywhere. God is nearer to you than anything in this Universe. God dwells within and without. Transform yourself through such a Divine life and be a Shining Star in the firmament of modern Society. Enrich present day Indian Society through your Divine presence and Divine life. This is the highest and greatest service to your Motherland and to your Mother culture. This is real, national service of a lasting type.

Be bold. Conquer thyself. Shine with Divinify. May God shower His grace abundantly upon you ! May he grant you long life, good health, prosperity, success and hapiness ! May the blessing and benediction of our Holy Gurudev Shri Sivanandaji Maharaj be upon each one of you and all members of your family. I send my loving prayerful good wishes and very best regards to each and every one of you assembled in this Annual gathering of noble and worthy Kodavas of beautiful Coorg. Peace and Joy be unto you all. I heartily thank revered Gen. Cariappa, our holy Gurudev's worthy and esteemed representative in Coorg for enabling me to address you all through this Message. May God grace him with Bliss, Peace and Spiritual Illumination !

Yours in the Divine,

Swami Chidananda